

ACES50, Asian Studies: Digital Asia: Cultural, Social and Political Transformations, 7.5 credits

Asienstudier: Digitala Asien: Kulturella, sociala och politiska transformationer, 7,5 högskolepoäng
Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus is an old version, approved by Faculty Board of Social Sciences on 2014-05-15 and was valid from 2014-09-01, autumn semester 2014.

General Information

The course is offered as an elective course in the third semester of the Master of Science Programme (120 credits) in Asian Studies.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of studies

Asian Studies

Asian Studies

Depth of study relative to the degree requirements

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

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Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, the student shall:

Knowledge and understanding

- demonstrate an understanding of how information and communication technologies (ICTs) influence culture, society and politics in Asian countries
- demonstrate knowledge of different theories, concepts, methodologies and approaches used in the study of Asian digital societies
- demonstrate knowledge of different types of ICTs, such as the Internet, social media, mobile phones and apps, and their special characteristics and uses in Asia

- demonstrate understanding of how ICTs may shape individual and collective practices, such as identity formation and socialization, social networking and community building, and social and political activism

Competence and skills

- demonstrate the skill to critically analyse the development and use of different ICTs within the context of different social, political and economic systems in Asia.
- demonstrate the ability to make use of different theories, concepts and methodologies of relevance for the study of Asian digital societies
- demonstrate the ability to critically analyse uses of ICTs among different individuals and communities in Asia.
- demonstrate the ability to critically evaluate how ICTs influence the identities, values, and practices of different individuals and communities in Asian societies.

Judgement and approach

- demonstrate an awareness of interdisciplinary and culturally sensitive approaches to studying Asian digital societies
- demonstrate a critical evaluation of theories, problems and issues concerning Asian digital societies
- demonstrate an understanding and the ability to critically evaluate the interconnectedness of global and local factors on Asian digital societies

Course content

The ubiquitous use of ICTs in daily life has led to a growing interest among scholars to address this phenomenon and study its impact on cultural, social and political practices and processes. We can identify a digital turn in the social sciences. The course makes use of insights and theories from different disciplines, such as media and communication studies, cultural studies, sociology, anthropology, political science and area studies in the study of Asian digital societies. Students are introduced to different theories, concepts, approaches, and methodologies with a particular focus on works addressing the Asian experiences. The course addresses different types of ICTs, including the Internet, social media, mobile phones and apps, in the context of both global processes and the cultural, social, political and economic context and development of different Asian societies. The course focuses on different themes and fields while paying attention to factors such as gender, ethnicity, socio-economic status, and age:

- Identity formation and socialization processes (for example through blogging, gaming, and mobile phone and social media use).
- Social networking and community building (for example among civil society, youth, interest communities)
- Social and political activism (for example in traditional politics, new social movements, citizen journalism).
- Digital methodologies and ethnographic practices

The course introduces students to theoretical and interdisciplinary studies, studies of the digital society in the West and Asia, and comparisons between and within different Asian societies. It encourages students to apply theoretical and methodological insights from the course in their own case studies/theses on different Asian countries and particular ICTs.

Course design

The teaching takes the form of lectures, seminars, and film screenings. Attendance is mandatory in seminars and active participation is required unless there are special grounds. An alternative form or date for compulsory components is offered to students who are not able to complete a compulsory component owing to circumstances beyond their control, e.g. accident, sudden illness or similar. This also applies to students who have missed teaching because of activities as a student representative.

Assessment

The assessments are based on seminar papers, presentations, and a final home assignment.

Three opportunities for examination are offered in conjunction with the course: a first examination and two re-examinations. Within a year of the end of the course, two further re-examinations on the same course content are offered. After this, further re-examination opportunities are offered but in accordance with the current course syllabus.

Subcourses that are part of this course can be found in an appendix at the end of this document.

Grades

Marking scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A.

The highest grade is A – and the lowest passing grade is E. The grade for a non-passing result is Fail.

The student's performance is assessed with reference to the learning outcomes of the course. For the grade of E the student must show acceptable results. For the grade of D the student must show satisfactory results. For the grade of C the student must show good results. For the grade of B the student must show very good results. For the grade of A the student must show excellent results. For the grade of Fail the student must have shown unacceptable results.

Course components such as active participation in seminars and discussions are exempted from the grading scale above. The grades awarded for such components are Pass or Fail. For the grade of Pass the student must show acceptable results. For the grade of Fail the student must have shown unacceptable results.

At the start of the course students are informed about the learning outcomes stated in the syllabus and about the grading scale and how it is applied in the course.

Entry requirements

Admitted to the Master of Science Programme in Asian Studies, 120 ECTS.

A good command of English language both spoken and written, equivalent to English 6/B (advanced) proficiency in the Swedish secondary system, is required. Equivalence assessments will be made according to national guidelines.

Further information

The syllabus was approved by the Centre for East and South-East Asian Studies Board of Directors on May 19:th 2014.

Subcourses in ACES50, Asian Studies: Digital Asia: Cultural, Social and Political Transformations

Applies from H14

1401 Cultural, Social and Political Transformations, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A